



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Office of the
Chief Financial
Officer

National
Finance
Center

P.O. Box 60000
New Orleans
Louisiana 70160

Date: September 10, 2008

In reply refer to:

Subject: Statement of Assurance

To: Customers and Stakeholders

The management of the National Finance Center (NFC), a component organization of the Department of Agriculture's Office of the Chief Financial Officer, conducted an assessment of the effectiveness of internal controls over financial reporting, which includes safeguarding of assets and compliance with applicable laws and regulations, in accordance with the requirements of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-123, Management's Responsibility of Internal Controls, Appendix A: Internal Control over Financial Reporting. An aspect of this assessment involved the assessed internal controls over the processing of payroll on behalf of other Federal Government agencies. Based on the results of this assessment, NFC can provide reasonable assurance that its internal controls over financial reporting as of June 30, 2008, were operating effectively and that no material weaknesses in the description, design, or operation of the internal controls over financial reporting were found.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cyrus G. Lohfink".

CYRUS G. LOHFINK
Director